

Policies Matter When Women Experience Violence
Community Forum: Policy Priorities and Action Plans

Poverty Reduction

- Sector coordination/align with poverty reduction advocates:
 - Raise the Rates
 - Social Assistance Review
 - Colour of Poverty
- Identify opportunities and lobby for specific outcomes – ACT NOW
 - Tax incentives for companies to hire marginalized women
 - Increased funding for women-led households
 - Universal minimum income
 - Access to education/training for women-led households
- Link with corporations & religious organizations (for funding to lobby)
- Develop positive narratives
 - Survey women survivors about poverty reduction strategies that work
 - Include women's voices
 - Include mental health
- Use social media to advocate and to share/disseminate knowledge and best practices
- Develop social enterprise
- Support women to access supports/programs
 - Résumé preparation, bridging programs, mentoring, financial literacy, employment training

Affordable Housing

- Develop a web-based housing coalition and/or coordinate with different sectors/housing advocacy groups to strengthen the focus on VAW policy issues:
 - Rent controls
 - Increases to social housing
 - Dedicated low rent units/units for women who experience violence in all new developments
 - Rent-to-own initiatives
 - Extend the grace period regarding special housing priority
 - Dedicated city-owned property for women and children
 - Unit allocation within the Toronto supportive housing sector
 - Expand income cut off for SSP housing
 - Rent supplement programs
 - Expand second stage for HSG funding
 - National Housing Strategy
- Develop a long-term pilot project to develop communal housing for women
- Develop a long-term pilot project to recruit women into trades
- Use social media

- Carry out a Charter Challenge

Access to Social Supports/Services

- Improve referrals to services
 - Improve 211
 - Centralized database
 - Telephone app with VAW services
 - Newcomer information at the airport
 - Central intake process at CAS
- Carry out or review research undertaken with newcomer women – what helped them; including women without status
- Online and in-person peer support groups
- Include participation of women in services (e.g., as Board members, staff, volunteers)
- Use social media to advertise to women and to share best practices
- Link with existing networks/campaigns
 - Right to Healthcare
- Create integrated service delivery models